

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01 /095 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0307

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USINT HAVANA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRAZZAVILLE 0285

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CF, UR, AO, CU, PORC

SUBJECT: CALL BY NEW SOVIET CHARGE, MARCH 16

1. ALEXANDRE KONDRATIEV, NEW SOVIET CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, CALLED ON CHARGE, MARCH 16. KONDRATIEV HAS REPLACED ARTUR VESSELOV AS CHARGE, ALTHOUGH VESSELOV REMAINS HERE. ACCORDING TO KONDRATIEV, SOVIET AMBASSADOR AFANASSENKO REMAINS IN A SANITORIUM IN MOSCOW (WHERE HE REPORTEDLY IS DRYING OUT).

2. KONDRATIEV, WHO CALLED ON CHARGE ALONE, SPEAKS GOOD FRENCH, AND HAS HAD A BACKGROUND IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. PRIOR TO COMING TO BRAZZAVILLE, KONDRATIEV SAID HE WORKED IN SECOND DEPARTMENT OF MFA, CONCERNED MOST RECENTLY WITH CONGO AND ZAIRE. EARLIER, HE WORKED ON ANGOLA, AND HAS SERVED IN THE PAST IN MOROCCO. HE TRAVELLED

WITH A DELEGATION TO LUANDA IN 1976. KONDRATIEV NEVERTHELESS DOES NOT APPEAR ENAMORED WITH AFRICA, ALTHOUGH HIS DISCONTENT WITH THE AFRICAN WAY OF DOING THINGS EXTENDS TO SCORN OF NON-RUSSIAN SOVIET MINORITIES INCLUDING KAZAKHS, UZBEKS, GEORCIANS, "AND OTHER BLACK MARKETEERS."

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3. KONDRATIEV DIVIDED HIS TIME BETWEEN DISCUSSION OF CONGO AND ANGOLA. CONCERNING CONGO, HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH CONGOLESE LIKED TO CHARACTERIZE THEMSELVES AS REPRESENTING A "MARXIST-LENINIST STATE", "THE CONDITIONS HERE DO NOT REFLECT THAT AT ALL, AND ARE UNLIKELY TO." NOR DOES MOSCOW CONSIDER THE CONGO AS A "MARXIST-LENINIST STATE." KONDRATIEV VOLUNTEERED THAT THERE ARE 500

SOVIETS IN CONGO, INCLUDING FAMILIES. (HE TOLD FRENCH AMBASSADOR DUFOURCQ THAT THERE WERE 700). COMMENTING ON CONGOLESE PERCEPTION OF CUBANS, KONDRATIEV SAID THAT WHILE CUBANS MAY LIKE TO FASHION THEMSELVES FOR SOME AS "BEING NON-ALIGNED," "THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF COUNTRIES IN NAM". WHEN CHARGE OBSERVED THAT DPRK SEEMED ANOTHER UNLIKELY NON-ALIGNED MEMBER, KONDRATIEV SMILED BROADLY.

4. TURNING TO ANGOLA, KONDRATIEV DID HIS BEST TO CHARACTERIZE CUBAN PRESENCE THERE AS RATHER INDEPENDENT OF MOSCOW, MAKING AN EFFORT AT A JOKE SAYING, "YOU KNOW THE CUBANS, THEY LIKE TO MAKE THEMSELVES OUT TO BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THEY ARE." KONDRATIEV EXCUSED SOVIET AMBASSADOR VOROB'YEV'S DEPARTURE FROM LUANDA, (MOSCOW'S 2245 NOTAL) AS OCCASION BY A MEDICAL PROBLEM (A FRACTURED RIB).
KATZEN

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